



Kieron Holmes <kieronholmes1998@gmail.com>

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## Your "Stoner Nation" piece is not health reporting, it's stigmatising drivel.

1 message

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**The Reasonable Adjustment** <advocacy@thereasonableadjustment.co.uk>

Sun, Jan 11, 2026 at 12:53

PM

To: bruno.brown@thesun.co.uk

Cc: news@the-sun.co.uk, exclusive@the-sun.co.uk, letters@the-sun.co.uk, editorialcomplaints@the-sun.co.uk, info@curaleafclinic.com

Bcc: elizabeth.morton@the-sun.co.uk

Hi Bruno,

I am writing about your article "Thousands of Brits are 'being prescribed super-strength cannabis' for mental health 'even after one video appointment'," and the "Stoner Nation" framing The Sun is now pushing around it.

I run a small public interest site called The Reasonable Adjustment. Yesterday I published a detailed breakdown of your piece and its framing:

[https://thereasonableadjustment.co.uk/2026/01/11/debunking-the-sun-stoner-nation/?src=tra\\_outreach&ctx=sun\\_debunk](https://thereasonableadjustment.co.uk/2026/01/11/debunking-the-sun-stoner-nation/?src=tra_outreach&ctx=sun_debunk)

A few points I would like you to address directly.

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### 1. You did not report on patients, you labelled them

Your article calls prescribed patients "illegal stoners", talks about "stoners jumping on loopholes in their droves", and puts "medicinal herb" and "patient's" in quotation marks.

That is not neutral language. It is a value judgement that tells readers "these people are not real patients" before they even see a fact.

If you are going to imply fraud or bad faith on that scale, why did you not present any evidence that most prescribed patients are abusing the system, instead of relying on loaded wording to do the job for you?

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### 2. You use psychiatric conditions as a punchline

You list anxiety, depression, OCD, ADHD and other mental health diagnoses as if they are flimsy excuses, then build an entire narrative around the idea that people with those conditions are gaming the system.

You know as well as I do that these are the same conditions people are actually trying to treat, often after multiple failed medications and side effects.

Do you accept that your framing encourages readers to see mental health patients as untrustworthy by default, or is that just collateral damage in service of a headline?

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### 3. You overstate psychosis risk in a way that would never pass for balance on any other drug

There is a serious, nuanced debate to have about cannabis and psychosis. Instead of presenting that nuance, you lean on a single expert line that "strong evidence" shows cannabis causes psychiatric disorders, and you leave it there.

Most people who use cannabis do not develop schizophrenia. Risk depends on dose, potency, frequency, age of first use and vulnerability. In a prescribing context there are supposed to be screens and exclusions for psychosis risk.

Why did you not:

- explain that nuance,
- ask what screening clinics actually use,
- or provide any data on how many patients with psychosis history are being prescribed, instead of letting readers assume "cannabis equals psychosis"?

If you had applied this standard to insulin or opioids, your own newsroom would laugh it out of conference.

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#### 4. Your statistics are theatre, not context

You quote 659,293 "unlicensed products", "ten tonnes" of cannabis, and 9.8 million grams prescribed, but you never define what a "product" is or how many patients that represents.

You also convert everything into tonnage, which is a great unit for a drug bust and a terrible unit if you are genuinely interested in patient level risk.

Can you provide:

- the number of patients represented by those figures,
- the average monthly quantity per patient,
- and any comparison with other controlled medicines in private care?

Or was the point simply to make the numbers sound frightening in isolation?

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#### 5. This all sits in a very clear Sun tradition

Your paper has previous when it comes to pointing at ordinary people and telling the public they are the problem. Liverpool will never forget what happened with the Hillsborough "The Truth" front page. You know that.

Reading your "Stoner Nation" package, it is hard to avoid the conclusion that the target has changed, not the method. This time it is disabled and mentally ill patients who get to be the cartoon villains.

If you disagree with that characterisation, I would be interested to see a Sun article on medical cannabis that:

- does not use "stoner" once,
  - separates illicit use from prescribed care properly,
  - and takes psychiatric patients seriously instead of treating them as a running joke.
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I am happy to publish your full reply on my site, unedited and in full context, if you would like to defend your work or correct the record.

At the moment, your article looks less like health reporting and more like a moral panic piece that happens to mention THC percentages.

Regards,

**Kieron JH**

Founder, The Reasonable Adjustment

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